

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AND THE OECD GOVERNMENT
PROCUREMENT CODE

REF: A) OECD PARIS 12531

B) OECD PARIS 10789

C) EC BRUSSELS 3233

1. ON JUNE 6, DEBRISBOURG, THE OFFICIAL WHO REPRESENTS THE COMMISSION ON THE OECD TWCP ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT TOLD US THAT THE EC COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO THE OECD SECRETARIAT DRAFT REPORT TO THE GATT SECRETARIAT REGARDING THE OECD WORK ON A GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE. HE SAID THAT THE EC SUGGESTED SMALL CHANGES BUT NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL.

2. DEBRISBOURG SAID THAT HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO WORK IN THE OECD ON THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT IF INDIA, FOR EXAMPLE, WANTS A GATT SUB-GROUP TO DEAL WITH A GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE, THE EC SHOULD ACCEPT THE RE-
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QUEST BUT IT SHOULD NOT PROPOSE IT. ACCORDING TO

DERISBOURG, EVEN IF THE GATT BEGINS LOOING AT A GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE, WORK SHOULD CONTINUE IN THE OECD. DERISBOURG CONCLUDED THAT HE HOPED THAT GOVERNMENT PROCURE-
MENT IS TAKEN UP IN THE MTN AS LATE AS POSSIBLE AND THAT MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT ARE DELAYED AS LONG AS FEASIBLE. LOOKING AT THE GATT SCHEDULE HE SAW NO CHANCE OF A SERIOUS DISCUSSION IN THE MTN UNTIL AT LEAST NOVEMBER 1975.

3. DERISBOURG SAID THAT HE WILL BE PREPARING A PAPER THIS WEEK ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NXT OECD TCWP MEETING WHICH HE WILL THEN CLEAR WITH THE MEMBER STATES. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A, HE DOES NOT EXPECT A FINAL EC POSITION UNTIL THE END OF JUNE.

4. IN DISCUSSING THE RELATION BETWEEN THE WORK ON THE EC DRAFT DIRECTIVE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AND THE OECD CODE, DERISBOURG NOTED THAT HE CANNOT MOVE FORWARD IN THE TCWP UNTIL HE KNOWS WHAT THE EC WILL AGREE TO IN ITS OWN DIRECTIVE REGARDING THE COMPUTER SECTOR, THE THRESHOLD VALUE OF THE CONTRACTS TO BE COVERED, AND REGIONAL POLICY EXCEPTIONS (SEE REFTEL C). (THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL DISCUSS THE DRAFT DIRECTIVE ON JUNE 18.) ANOTHER SERIES OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, SUCH AS SINGLE TENDER PROCUREMENT, SURVEILLANCE AND EX-POST PUBLICITY, WILL REQUIRE COORDINATION AMONG THE NINE AND WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT THEY DO NOT REQUIRE WAITING FOR THE COUNCIL DECISIONS ON THE DRAFT DIRECTIVE. GRENWALD

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